

INDIAN WARS.

To the Editor of the Historical and Genealogical Register

DEAR SIR, —

In looking over a mass of papers which have been deposited with me, I find every rare and relic of the antiquaries of this country, of the vicinity, some of which may be interesting to your readers. I find also some which will be interesting from the authors friends of the old wars, if you should desire it, unless my friends, Will Wright, and also from other sources. I send you now a copy of a letter from Dr. Isaac Smith Wright, ancestor of a highly respectable family in this state, in relation to the French and Indian war of 1744, and draw its extract from his journal. The letter is copied verbatim, according to prescription. The journal is put into most modern language.

SHERMAN W. WILLIAMS, M. D.

Dorchester, Mass., Jan 27, 1843.

From Dr. Isaac Smith Wright to his Brother

Dorchester October the 12, 1745

DEAR BROTHER.—I have the pleasure to inform you that we are in excellent health, through the goodness of God in your last letter to me you desired me to send you an account of what I met with in my Voyage I have had no opportunity till now I can send a particular account of the whole voyage in the company of a letterer you must take further hints we set out from Dorchester on a Tuesday at three of the clock with 29 men & came to Northfield about dusk the men being gone we made no more but set forward for Fort Danvers & got there at ten of the clock where we found a 12 of Northfield men they joynted us on sabbath day morning we set out for the great meadow & came to the fort about two clock where we found much things to behold as would raise the passion of the most stiddy man in the world two captives they were a brother and sister & both laying speed almost over the ground but without any stay their feet were ordered to move along after carried Willard & his men that were first gone along in riding threw the meadow we could scarce turn our eyes without seeing dead creatures run with their guts out ought & some ribs open & others part of them carried off & a great many that lay untouched with their heads were taken off their sight & many other distressing sights about took away all the sabbath I pray that it may not be my lot thus to be carried Willard & his men when we made a halt at then I repaired the office of the fight I talked with the war he was very a stiddy man, & best knowing the state he shot the number of the enemy that comes to the side of the fort was about 50 when he saw them first there was 6 of them stayed without their guns to pursue of us but when he saw they would reach him he turned to them & with his hands lifted up raised himself into their hands & they led him away it is quite amazing whether they killed any of the enemy for the soldiers think they wounded some of them the enemy were in the meadow scarce an hour at the fort & killing the cattle as they

went off up the river they found David Bag & another man coming down the river in a canoe they shot on them & killed bag the other man jumped out of the canoe and escaped the infantry they crossed over and brought the canoe to them & took off his scalp & left him in the canoe without any arms we then set forward the full company being 84 men we follow the infantry's works till about noon and then they scattered we except their marching we set out for another hour when we had got within 7 miles of the fort we came on the tracks of a number that started towards the fort we were ordered to strip ourselves ready for a fight & so we went till we came to the fort but found not the infantry we lay there & on Monday we set out for home & struck across the upper watershed 3 miles before we came to the trail we came across some more Indian tracks but saw not the Indians we lay at Ashcroft & on Monday came to Northfield as we came there.

Copy of a Journal kept by Dea. Noah Wright.

[Corrected Spelling.]

June 2^d 1746. The third day at N^o 4. Captain Stevens and one of the captains of our troops being there, they went out with about fifty men, as I have been informed, to look for some houses, and they came upon an army of Indians. They were commanded to stop them and fight them, which they did, and drove the Indians off from their ground and got upon it and maintained it in spite of them. They received the loss of no men, but four or five wounded, as I have been informed. They sent forty of the men to carry the wounded men to the fort, and the rest maintained the fight and stood them manfully. After the fight was over they found where they drove off several dead Indians into a swamp. They sent down a troop of men to guard Mr. Dedrick and Dr. Williams to cut off the arms of one of their men that was sore wounded, broke that they supposed, that the end would not be healed without cutting off one of his arms. Since, I have been told that our men recovered so much plunder, guns, hatchets, spears, flints, and such like things as they sold for seventy or eighty pounds. Since this the next time, June 23^d, a certain small number of Indians, a little below Bridgman's fort ran upon a number of men at work, wounded three men, one mortally, so that he died next day, James Baker, by name, from Springfield; the other two are slowly so recovered. They wounded one John, and Patrie Bag. They took one Roberts and Howe, and one John Deacon, a Northfield man. They took from our men several guns; about six men escaped and got away well. At a place called Cold Spring, below Fort Dunmore, a number of Indians ran upon twelve men. Again, July 4, 1746, about twelve ambushed the road to Mr. Hinckley's mill; about thirty miles from the mill, the Indians shot upon the faces of them. It is supposed they did not know what number of men there was. They wounded one Moses Wright, shot off two of his fingers. The men pursued them and they fled. Our men recovered all their packs, so they were forced to fire off naked.

July 25, 1746. A small number of about twelve or sixteen Indians lay several days at Colman, near Hugh Merriam's fort, to watch the motion of the people, and then morning David Marston went out little more than gun shot from the fort in order to shoot a hawk, and these Indians ran upon him and took him and led him off captive. August 6, 1746. At Winchester, across the way over against Beacon's Meeting House, lay an ambush, as it is supposed, of about twenty Indians; and several of our men had been

ness to pass by not knowing of the ambush, while the Indians fired on them and shot two of them; in the shot one of them named Roger killed the other named Amos Wright, being one leg shot through part of his neck, recovered himself and got up and made his escape with the rest of the men. The Indians tried thick after them but they all got off alive, only said Rogers. About the same time a small number of Indians ambushed the road at the lower Ashcroft and a number of our men were passing along that way. Just as they came near the Indians they turned out of the path and the Indians seeing them, supposing they were discovered, and that the English were wounding them in, rose up and shot through thick and thin, and then our men saw them a flying. They gave them chase, but the Indians outran and escaped them, and there was no "spile dancs on wery side." August 13. This day I have heard of another onset at No. 4. According to the best light I can get there was about three hundred French and Indians that came into the town of No. 4, the 17th day of July being a Sabbath day, and fought thirty hours in the town and burnt their mill and all their houses, save one that stood near the fort, and killed all their cattle and all the troops' horses and all the doctors in the town, (there must be some mistake in this word. S. W. W.) but one man lost in the whole fight. I have heard as they are certain that they killed any of the Indians, and at the same time I heard that the 11th day of August one of Wright's sons of Northfield was riding out to a pasture some distance from the town he was shot by the Indians into one side, and the bullet came out of his other shoulder. His horse brought him in alive, but he died in the night about one o'clock.

August 13, 1746. Near the city of Albany a company of men went out, as I have heard, to get some fresh meat. They were at their return shot upon by the enemy, and eight were killed down upon the spot and two wounded so that one of them died the next day.

August 17, 1746. At Winchester I hear that John Simmons being at some distance from the fort was shot at by several Indians. He not being wounded turned upon them and fired and dropt one Indian. Our men afterwards went there and found blood and one blacken, so that it looked likely that he was killed.

August 22nd, 1746. Between Deerfield and Coleraba, about ten men being a traveling the road were shot upon. One Blau, one of Capt. Holson's soldiers, was killed.

August 25th, 1746. In the southwest corner of Deerfield stands a number of Indians came upon our men at work, killed and sciped Samuel Allen, Eleazer Hawks, and one of Capt. Holson's soldiers named Jiles, and two of the widow Amosden's children, taken captive, one boy of Samuel Allen's and dropped a hatchet into the bosom of one of his girls. They are in hopes that she will recover. One man killed one of the Indians, who got got gun from them and lost three guns by them.

August 30, 1746. A post this day returned to and from Fort Massachusetts, and brings us news that the fort was taken and burnt to ashes, and we could learn here as there is one man escaped. I am in some hopes that there are some that are taken captive and gone to Canada, and so I sit altogether without hopes of seeing some of them again.

Sept. 11, 1746. I saw a letter wrote by Mr. Norton at Ipswich after the fort was taken, and he says that they were besieged by seven hundred French and Indians, and they being brought to a great strait, the enemy prepared a vast quantity of faggots in order to burn down the fort by fires, but the French General came to them for capitulation, and told them if they

would resign up the fort he would treat them all well and carry them to Canada; that they should be released as soon as there was any opportunity, and if not he would kill them all. And so they resigned up the fort, and lost but one man, named Norton, and had two wounded, and so all the rest are gone to Canada. He says they are all well used by the enemy. The 3d week in October, 1746, fourteen men were killed and taken captive. March 30, 1747. A certain number of Indians burnt a fire in Mary's meadow called Shaddock's fort. They came up with faggots already fixed and burnt down a part of the fort, but the folks put out the fire and saved themselves in one of the rooms, and lost none of them. It is supposed they killed one or more of the Indians.

April 8, 1747. The fort at No. 4 burnt by a great army, but could not take the fort.

April 14, 1747. Two men killed at Norton's meadow, Nathaniel Dakin and Archer Barr.